



Rivendell Interstate School District
10 School Drive, PO Box 271, Orford, NH 03777
Tel: 603-353-2170 Fax: 603-353-2189
www.rivendellschool.org

Jennifer Botzjourns
Superintendent

Caryn Hastie
Director of Special Education

Public Rivendell Interstate School District Food Service Report School year 2024-2025

Local Foods:

In school year 2023-2024 RISD locally sourced and produced 17.54% of food used in the NSLP Breakfast and Lunch programs for all three schools. 45 % of these items were obtained from local farms including but not limited to: 4 Corners Farm, Root 5 Farm, Newmont Farm, Crossroads Farm, and Long Wind Farm. Additionally, we were awarded a grant through Green Mountain Farm Direct LLC and spent the full allocation of \$2426.00 on local food items including fresh produce and Vermont made dairy products. RISD's Greenhouse and gardens provided approximately 9.5% of our total local food count and contributed fresh produce to the NSLP food program for all school locations. The remaining of our local items were purchased through our food supplier Performance Food Group which is contracted through the State of Vermont as the FDA school food supplier. While we made huge progress in our local purchases this year our new goal for FY25 is to increase use of local foods to 20%.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program:

Both elementary schools received allocations for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in School year 2023-2024 which helps provide fresh fruit and vegetables during school hours but outside of meal service times. These items were offered to children in addition to Breakfast and Lunch and in conjunction with health education and farm to school curriculum for FY24. The benefit to the elementary schools totaled: \$11,500.00

Changes and updates for School Year 2024-2025:

Vermont State Officials visited our elementary level school this past year at our request and made some suggestions to better align with best practices in meal service. Moving forward starting in FY25 (School year 2024-2025) all locations will move to the "offer" vs "serve" model. This will allow for less food waste and flexibility in the healthy options being served to our students. All meals must meet NSLP meal standards and required food components must be taken by students to qualify for a "free" meal. More information regarding the OVS model can be found: [here](#)

Additionally, we will be streamlining our program and controlling costs by consolidating ordering and creating cycle menus for use at all schools. Both elementary schools will serve the same menu. This will help to control the cost of food at the smaller elementary level by allowing bulk purchases and distribution. Finally, for consistency and to drive the best possible outcome for our students we will require that each school location employ a cook that is ServSafe certified in addition to all state and federally required training.

Menus can be viewed on our website at <https://www.rivendellschool.org/foodservice>



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Our current A 'la Carte Menu can be viewed at <https://www.rivendellschool.org/foodservice>

Breakfast and Lunch will be offered to all students at no cost for FY25 at all locations. All school locations at RISD have qualified for CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) for a four-year cycle. This will allow us to forego Free and Reduced applications for the next four years. However, [Household Income Forms](#) will be collected annually to allow us to obtain the data required for the school census and title fund allocations. *These forms are incredibly important*, and we ask that you please complete them to support your local schools. Completed forms can be returned to your school Administrative Assistant.

Milks will be provided with both breakfast and lunch meal service as part of the free meal. However, any additional milk will require payment per the National School Lunch Program at an a 'la carte charge of 50 cents per carton. Please note that the USDA is currently considering further regulation of milk products offered in school and there may be required changes to what "milk" we are allowed to provide at school at some time in the future. Should a change in our service model be required, parents will be notified. For more information regarding these potential changes please visit the USDA website: [Milk USDA](#)

A Note from the Director:

Dear Rivendell Families,

I would like to introduce myself to you, my name is Carol Perkins, and I am the new Director of Food Service for Rivendell Interstate School District. As I take on this new role, I am very excited to work with the team to provide healthy and delicious meals for your children with a focus on conscientious budgeting and the use of fresh local ingredients.

As many of you know, I have been the Food Service Manager at Rivendell Academy for the last 3 years and Co-director last year. As noted above we will be moving to the "offer" model in school year 2024-2025. This new configuration will allow us to bring new meal plans to both elementary schools. Offering choices at breakfast and lunch with the addition of salad bars.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns or to report allergy requirements. I have an open-door policy and would love to hear from you.

Cperkins@rivendellschool.org